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LETTER DATED 6 JUNE 1999 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 5 June 1999 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, concerning hostile intrusions by the United States into Iraq's internal affairs and the meetings held by the United States Administration with a group of mercenaries who have betrayed their country with a view to using them as an instrument in its conspiracy against Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rokan Hama AL-ANBUGE
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Letter dated 5 June 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

The United States Administration continues to pursue its anti-Iraq policy, as exemplified by the ongoing military aggression against the country, the insistence on maintaining the comprehensive sanctions imposed on it, interference in its internal affairs and the conspiracy against its national political regime.

On 18 September 1998, as part of an endeavour that is incompatible with the obligations of the United States under the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the principles governing relations between States, the Congress of the United States passed a so-called Iraq Liberation Act to finance and arm terrorist groups seeking to undermine the security and stability of Iraq and challenge its unity as a nation. In a dangerous precedent for international relations, on 31 October 1998 United States President Clinton signed the Act into law and appropriated the amount of 97 million dollars from the United States Treasury in order to finance and arm these terrorist groups.

On 24 May 1999, Madeleine K. Albright, United States Secretary of State, held a meeting with a group of mercenaries who have betrayed their Iraqi homeland with a view to using them as an instrument in a conspiracy against Iraq and to threaten its security and territorial integrity and the safety of its people. Speaking of this meeting, Department of State spokesman James P. Rubin said that, as of July next, Washington would provide financial assistance to the Iraqi opposition in order to support its efforts to overthrow the regime of President Saddam Hussein. He said that they expected to begin providing assistance following the enlarged meeting of the opposition's general assembly that the leaders of the Iraq National Congress has announced for next July and that the first instalment of United States funds would be allocated to the establishment of an opposition headquarters and satellite offices, to training and to advocacy. He went on to say that the assistance would not be part of the 97 million dollars in military assistance for which provision had been made in the Iraq Liberation Act.

These hostile statements and actions against Iraq represent a further negative development being imposed by the United States of America on international relations and one that requires the international community and its institutions to respond with the dismissal and condemnation that such a development deserves. The United States, after all, is a permanent member of the Security Council and it thus has precise obligations under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security. As a State, it also has a duty to abide by the principles of the Charter, the foremost of which is the principle that States Members of the United Nations must refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State or in a manner that does not accord with the purposes of the United Nations. The violation by the United States of its obligations under these principles creates untrammelled opportunities for interference in the internal affairs of States, destroys the

legal foundations laid by the international community for interaction between States and portends the gravest dangers for peace and international security.

The United Nations has a legal and moral responsibility to defend the principles of the Charter, to oppose attempts to prejudice the integrity and independence of its Member States and to reject a United States policy that seeks to return the international community to the law of the jungle and the rule of brute force. Until such time as the international community and its institutions take action to halt the aggression, the people of Iraq will continue its opposition to the State terrorism practised by the United States. It will do so in order to safeguard its territorial integrity and independence and its right to a life of dignity and with a view to upholding the principles of the Charter and international law and the right of peoples to self-determination.

I request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq